

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

VICTOR M. BETANCOURT-ALGARIN,

Plaintiff,
-against-
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,
Defendant.

USDC SDNY
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DATE FILED: <u>4/21/21</u>

20-CV-9327 (GBD) (BCM)

SCHEDULING ORDER

BARBARA MOSES, United States Magistrate Judge.

We have received and reviewed the commissioner's second request for an extension to file the administrative record until **June 18, 2021**. That request is GRANTED.

Thereafter, in order to promote the efficient adjudication of this matter, Judge Moses expects the parties to adhere to the following schedule and comply with the following procedures:

1. A **paper courtesy copy** of the e-CAR, marked as such, must be delivered to chambers by mail, overnight courier, or hand delivery promptly after filing. **This requirement remains in effect notwithstanding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**
2. **No later than 30 days after the e-CAR is due**, counsel for plaintiff must send a **written proposal for settlement** to counsel for the Commissioner, summarizing plaintiff's strongest arguments, with specific references to the portions of the record supporting those arguments, to determine if the case can be resolved.
3. Promptly upon receipt of plaintiff's settlement proposal, counsel for the Commissioner must consult with the agency, evaluate the merits of the proposal, and meet and confer with plaintiff's counsel in good faith, **in person or by telephone**, to determine whether the case can be resolved without further expenditure of attorney

time and judicial resources. An exchange of emails is not sufficient.

4. **No later than 30 days after plaintiff's settlement proposal is due**, the parties shall either:

- a. electronically file a stipulation dismissing, remanding, or otherwise resolving the case; or
- b. electronically file a joint letter advising the Court that the parties have complied with the requirements of paragraph 2 and 3 above but were unable to resolve the case and are proceeding to brief their respective positions in accordance with paragraphs 5-7 below.

5. Plaintiff shall file his or her motion for judgment on the pleadings **no later than 30 days after the parties' joint letter is due**. The motion for judgment on the pleadings must contain, in appropriately titled portions of plaintiff's brief:

- a. **a full description of the relevant facts, and**
- b. **a full description of the relevant administrative proceedings,**

both of which must be supported by citations to the supporting pages of the e-CAR.

6. The Commissioner shall file his response to the motion for judgment on the pleadings **no later than 60 days after plaintiff's motion is due**. The response must state, in appropriately titled portions of defendant's brief, **whether the Commissioner agrees with plaintiff's descriptions of the relevant facts and the relevant administrative proceedings, and – if not – whether plaintiff's description misstates, mischaracterizes, or omits any material facts or proceedings**. Additionally, the Commissioner must clearly identify the portion(s) of plaintiff's description with which he disagrees and cite to the pages of the e-CAR that support his position.

Similarly, if the Commissioner agrees with plaintiff's description but wishes to direct the Court to additional facts in the record that he deems material, he must clearly identify those facts, explain why they are material to this Court's decision, and cite to the supporting pages of the e-CAR.

7. **No later than 21 days after the Commissioner's response is due**, plaintiff shall file any reply.

The Court is familiar with the standard of review and the sequential evaluation process, so the parties should avoid boilerplate discussions of the governing legal standards. Rather, the parties should focus on applying relevant and controlling legal authority to the facts germane to each disputed issue. When citing relevant cases, statutes, regulations, Social Security Rulings, medical and vocational reference sources, or other legal authority to support their legal arguments, the parties shall provide complete and accurate citations to the portions of those authorities relied upon. The parties shall also specify the evidence upon which they rely to support their contentions, and provide accurate page citations to the Administrative Record for all evidence relied upon [*i.e.*, "R. at ____"]. In addition, all medical terminology (including medical conditions, diagnoses, procedures, tests, anatomical references, and pharmaceuticals) shall be defined in terms understandable to a layperson, preferably by citation to a medical dictionary or other standard reference work. The parties may not supplement the record beyond the definition of technical terms.

If the areas in which the parties agree or disagree are not sufficiently clear from their briefs, Judge Moses will schedule a conference, at which counsel will be expected to assist the Court in determining what issues are genuinely in dispute between them and answer any questions the Court may have concerning the case.

The parties are reminded that, under the Standing Order, memoranda filed in support of or in opposition to any dispositive motion shall not exceed 25 pages, and reply memoranda shall not exceed 10 pages. Any party seeking to exceed these page limitations must apply to Judge Moses for leave to do so, with copies to all counsel, **no later than seven days before the date upon which the memorandum must be filed** and otherwise in compliance with Judge Moses's Individual Practices in Civil Cases. Memoranda exceeding 10 pages must include a table of contents and a table of authorities, neither of which shall count against the page limit.

No further extensions to file the administrative record will be granted. The Clerk of Court is respectfully requested to close the letter motion at Dkt. No. 9.

Dated: New York, New York
April 21, 2020

SO ORDERED.



BARBARA MOSES
United States Magistrate Judge